The information as on 31st December, 1989 is not readily available as the accounts for the period are yet to close.

(b) The debt service ratio is ormally computed on the basis of debt service payments as percentage of current receipts. On this basis the debt service payments (*i.e.* repayment of principal and payment of interest) is estimated to be 23 per cent of exports of goods and gross invisible receipts during 1988-89.

(c) The Government has taken a number of steps to boost exports and to increase invisible earnings to ensure efficient import substitution and to reduce dependency on external financing.

Price Rise in the country

295. SHRI M. A. BABY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the price rise during the months of December, 1989 and January and February, 1990 in comparison to the corresponding periods of the previous three years?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE) : The requisite information is given below :

Month Percentage Change in WPI (1981-82=100) over previous month

	1990	1989	1988	1987
December	—	—0·5	—0·8	0·7
January	0·4	1·0	0·8	0·6
February	0·8	0·1	0·3	—0·4

Announcement of Indira Mahila Yojana on the eve of Lok Sabha Elections

296. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has taken note of the announcement of the Indira Mahila Yojana by the previous Government on the eve of the Lok Sabha elections;

(b) whether the Chief Election Commissioner had expressed his displeasure over the announcement ; and

(c) if so, what corrective measures are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Taking into consideration all relevent material the Election Commission felt that the announcement of Indira Mahila Yojana by the previous Government on the eve of the Lok Sabha elections was a border line case of violation of the Model Code of Conduct evolved by the Election Commission.

(c) The Model Code of Conduct for the guidance of political parties and candidates evolved by the Election Commission already contains the necessary gividelines in such matters. The question of providing a statutory backing to the said code is under consideration of the Committee on Electoral Reforms appointed by the Government to go into various proposals for electotal reforms.

Appointment of Judicial Commission

297. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to appoint a Judicial Commission;

(b) if so, what is the purpose of this Commission ; and

(c) whether this Commission would also look into the working of the Supreme Court and High Courts in the Country?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI) : (a) and (b) The Government intend to set up a high-level Judicial Commission for the appointment of Judges in the High Courts and the Supreme Court and for the transfer of Judges from one High Court to another.

(c) No, Sir.

Case against Reliance Group of Companies

298. DR. BAPU KALDATE : Will the Minister of FIANANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a case is under investigation with Collector of Customs, Bombay against the Reliance Group of Companies for having imported extra spinnning units for its synthetic yarn mills ;

(b) whether the Collector of Customs, Bombay imposed a fine totalling Rs. 120 crore against the group of companies ;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether the case has been reopened recently ; and

(e) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE) : (a) to (e) The matter relating *inter alia* to alleged import of extra spinning machine lines by M/s. Reliance Industries Ltd. was investigated by Bombay Customs House. Thereafter a Show-Cause Notice issued on 10-2-87 to the Company alleging evasion of duty of Rs. 119.64 crores of which import of extra Machine Lines was included as one of the charges.

The above Show-Cause Notice was adjudicated by Collector of Customs, Bombay who in his adjudication orders dated 31-1-89 read with corrigendum dated 28-2-89 dropped the charges made in the Show-Cause Notice.

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 129(D)(1) of the Customs Act, 1962, the Central Board of Excise & Customs (C.B. E.C.) called for and examined the records of proceedings leading to the said orders dated 31-1-89 read with orders dated 28-2-89 of Collector of Customs for the purpose of satisfying itself as to the legality and propriety of such decision and, in its Order No. 62/R-89 dated 29-12-89, directed Collector of Customs to apply to the Appellate Tribunal for determination of points as specified in the orders of the Board. In pursuance of the said Order dated 29-12-89, Collector of Customs, Bombay made an application to the Appellate Tribunal and it was filed on 17-1-1990.

Alleged Role of Bank of Baroda FIscal Services in Acquiring Larsen and Toubro Equity

299. DR. BAPU KALDATE :
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the alleged